

came to meet him. The moon behind dark specter-trees seemed almost to throw shadows on the carpet at his feet. But he did not heed them. He turned directly from it and faced the side wall. He went to "The Old Oak" hung there with its neighbors, no more conspicuous, no more fine but holding in its canvas all of Blakelock's loves—the sharp twisting tree-limbs against a twilight sky. Somewhere from the depths of that picture there came a light, and it spread over the painter's face. He began at once to tell about it, how and where he painted it; he pointed to the tracery in the trees, and called Watrous's attention to

And now it was that Ralph Albert Blakelock came back—not as he came in physical shape to the city—but in spirit and in mind. His pictures seemed to be the link which the period of exceptional calm upon which he has lately entered needed for fulness. His memory became inordinately clear. He went from one to the other of his paintings, saying: "Now, Harry, you remember about this." And, "Doctor, you know I only got thirty dollars for this," telling who bought it and how he dickered for a better price when the offer was out of bounds too low.

"Yes, I think that trunk is just the right size now. You see, I was not at all sure up there [meaning at Middletown] whether or not after all that trunk would bear the branches. But it is all right."

Now those who had hovered around, hearing his first words and watching the joy of the home-coming, took places in the rear. Left to himself, he strolled around, bowing to an attendant and explaining to her at length about his

"I painted that for Mr. Herter, before he went to Paris," he said. "He died over there, and never saw it. See how ancient it looks, as if some old fellow a thousand years old had done it. But that is because it is done on a wood-panel. I got \$25 for that picture." And as he mentioned this figure, which would not pay insurance on the painting's value to-day, he had no sadness in his voice, no deep hurt at the injustice done. Rather light was his tone, as if this were a circumstance in the life of an artist.

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